GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1438
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2016
Empowerment of Panchayats
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to hire junior level engineers and data entry operators for working in panchayats to make the panchayats e-governance friendly, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether it is a fact that there are 58000 gram panchayats across the country without permanent office facilities and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has rolled back the BRGF scheme, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Union Government had asked the State Governments to increase their own funding resources to empower panchayats and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)
(a) Under the Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Shashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) scheme of the Ministry, until 2014-15, funds were provided to States for engaging administrative and technical staff (accountant-cum-data entry operators, junior engineers) at block and Gram Panchayats level. However, with effect from 2015-16, the State component of RGPSA has been delinked from the central support and the States have been advised to devolve funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayats to equip them to perform their functions smoothly.

(b) As per the information shared by State Governments, over 57,000 Panchayats do not have their own buildings. The State/UT-wise detail of Panchayats without buildings is placed at Annexe.

(c) From the financial year 2015-16 onwards, the Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) has been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government on account of higher devolution of funds to the States from 32% to 42% of the Centre's net tax receipts.

(d) Under the Fourteenth Finance Commission award, release of Performance Grants to Panchayats is linked, inter alia, with the increase in Own Source Revenue by the Gram Panchayats over the preceding year that has been reiterated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to the States.
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